

# AtlanticRhodo

[www.AtlanticRhodo.org](http://www.AtlanticRhodo.org)

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# Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society

## Our Mission

ARHS supports and promotes the development and exchange of expertise and material relating to the practice of creating and maintaining year-round garden landscapes featuring rhododendrons and other plants.

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## Membership

### Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society.

Fees are \$20.00 from September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014, due September 2013. For benefits see ARHS website [www.atlanticrhodo.org](http://www.atlanticrhodo.org)

**American Rhododendron Society:** ARHS is a chapter in District 12 of the American Rhododendron Society. Combined ARHS and ARS membership cost is \$50.00 Canadian. For benefits see [www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org)

Cheques, made payable to Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society should be sent to **Ann Drysdale, 5 Little Point Lane, Herring Cove, NS B3V1J7.**

Please include name, address with postal code, e-mail address and telephone number, for organizational purposes only.

*AtlanticRhodo* is the Newsletter of the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society. We welcome your comments, suggestions, articles, photos and other material for publication. Send all material to the editor.

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## Calendar of Events

ARHS meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month, from September to May, at 7:30 p.m. usually in the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History Auditorium, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, unless otherwise noted. Paid parking is available in the Museum lot. Friends, guests and anyone interested in rhododendrons, azaleas or companion plants are always welcome at meetings or events.

- Tuesday Feb 4** “A Horticulturalist Takes on Vegetables” with **Jim Turner**.  
Jim, who studied horticulture at the University of California and Cornell University, has worked as an estate gardener and more recently as the manager of a garden centre. Seven years ago he started Nova Bluewater Farm, a certified organic market garden so that he could do what he most loves about gardening—growing healthy, tasty food.
- Friday Feb 28** Deadline for ARHS members-only seed orders <http://www.willowgarden.net/>
- Saturday March 1** Early registration closes for the April 24-26 Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden 50th Anniversary Celebration, Federal Way, Washington. <http://rhodygarden.org/cms/>.
- Tuesday March 4** “50 years of Rhododendrons at the Agriculture Campus” with **Jeff Morton**.  
This talk will look at the development, installation, and growth of a number of species over the last 50 years on the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus. The 50-year milestone will be celebrated June 6 during provincial gardening week. Jeff Morton, horticultural educator, grounds manager, lover of horticulture has played among these rhododendrons in Truro his whole life. He currently is president of the NS Rock Garden Club and lives and gardens in Truro, NS
- Tuesday April 1** “Meconopsis, Trillium, & Woodland Plants”. **Steele Lecture** with **Ian Christie**.  
Ian Christie has been a nurseryman for over 40 years. He is a past president of the Scottish Rock Garden Club and the holder of many prestigious horticultural awards and medals. His specialties include alpiners, snowdrops, meconopsis, trilliums, lilies, woodland plants, and, as he says, “others”. Lots of pictures, practical growing information, inspiring possibilities. Visit the Scottish Rock Garden Club website: [www.srgc.net](http://www.srgc.net)
- Saturday April 5** Tissue Culture Pick Up. 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. St. Andrews Recreation Center, 3380 Barnstead Lane, Halifax.
- Wednesday April 30** ARHS 2014 Seed Exchange and Sale closes. <http://www.willowgarden.net/>
- Saturday May 3** Members’ Pre-ordered Plant Pick Up Sale. At the same location as last year: Petal Pushers 957 Prospect Road (also the site of the Goodwood Enviro-Depot) Volunteers needed!
- Tuesday May 6** Members-to-Members Plant Sale 6141 Watt St., Halifax. LeMarchant-St Thomas School gym. Plants should be unusual or choice in some way.
- Saturday May 10** ARHS Annual Public Sale 1:00 - 3:30pm 6141 Watt St., Halifax. LeMarchant-St Thomas School gym. Volunteers needed to drive plants, set –up, sell, and clean-up
- Late May/early June** **Panayoti Kelaidis**, Senior Curator and Director Denver Botanic Gardens Outreach, will be visiting us and giving some talks in the Atlantic region.  
Here’s his bio: [www.botanicgardens.org/.webloc](http://www.botanicgardens.org/.webloc) Some possible/ tentative dates and events are  
Tues. May 27 (tentative) Walk the Peggy’s Cove Barrens with Panayoti Kelaidis  
Mon. June 2 (tentative) Public Talk in Halifax with Panayoti Kelaidis
- Sunday June 8** **Annual Garden Tour and Pot Luck Supper**. The 2014 Garden Tour will be in the Chester/ Mahone Bay area. **Sandy and Sid Dumaresq** will open their garden as part of the tour and host the pot-luck supper. Note: date in the fall newsletter is different and not valid!  
**Panayoti Kelaidis** will join us.

**Thank you for avoiding the use of perfumes and scented products when you come to ARHS events.**

# Special Notices

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## Editor's Notes

The Deadline for the spring newsletter material is **Thursday April 17**.

**Any time, All the time** Post and see questions, joys, sorrows, events, and plant and garden photos on the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/340130989363045/>. Currently there are 80 individuals in the group.

**Saturday March 15** Last Date to order tissue culture plants. Contact Jon Porter. [jonporter@eastlink.ca](mailto:jonporter@eastlink.ca)

Here are some other up-coming gardening events/dates that some of you may be interested in.

**Saturday Feb 15** NS Rock Garden Club Grafting Propagation Workshop with **Jamie Ellison** at NSCC Kingstec, Kentville. Contact [James.Ellison@nsc.ca](mailto:James.Ellison@nsc.ca) about space for non-members.

**June 1-8** Provincial Gardening Week in NS

**Friday June 6** **Rocking the Rhodies** Celebrating 50 years of Rhododendrons at the Dal Ag Campus Truro

**June 6 and 7** 2014 NSAGC Convention, Truro, NS <http://www.nsagc.com/Info2014.pdf>

**Friday June 12** National Garden Day in Canada.

## Would YOU like to help the Halifax Public Gardens to celebrate rhododendrons?

Halifax Public Gardens gardener and Canadian Garden Council rep from NS, Helen MacLean, sent an email asking the ARHS "Would you like to help the Halifax Public Garden celebrate rhododendrons?" She continues, "I am requesting that we add to our Halifax Public Gardens events (currently we celebrate The Dahlia very successfully) by holding a Rhododendron Celebration. The emergence of blooms in June coincides with our new national event- Canada's Garden Day, and our beautiful rhodies deserve attention. It is also an opportunity for us to give the visiting public information and opportunities to learn more about our collections. ... As local area experts in both rhododendrons and other horticulturally-interesting groups of plants, I am seeking a partnership for which the society will be acknowledged for their contribution."

If you can imagine spending some time talking with people in the Public Gardens about rhododendrons when the rhodies are in bloom in June, here is an opportunity to do just that.

Our outreach man, Chris Hopgood, [rhodohop@hotmail.com](mailto:rhodohop@hotmail.com) would love to hear from you! ☺

## Peter Wharton's 1995 UBC seed-collecting expedition to Western China

By John Brett

A number of members of RSCAR (now ARHS) received packets of the rhododendron seeds collected in western China back in 1995 by the late Peter Wharton, curator of the David C. Lam Asian Garden at the UBC Botanical Gardens. That was twenty years ago. There were many exotic varieties. Some had only rarely, if ever, been available in the west.

I'd like to collect information/photos on what has happened to the rhododendrons grown from the seed. My plan is to present the findings in a talk for the ARHS next year, titled, "The Peter Wharton rhododendrons: Where are they now?"

If you have (or had) rhododendrons grown from the Peter Wharton seeds, and would like to share the results - good, bad or indifferent - please contact me, John Brett, at [jbrett@eastlink.ca](mailto:jbrett@eastlink.ca) or call me at 902 475 3775." ☺



A very warm welcome to our new ARHS members who have joined since the November Newsletter.

**Sophie Bieger**  
**Michael MacDonald**  
**Mary & Jamie McLean**

**Halifax, NS**  
**Sydney, NS**  
**Toronto**

☺☺☺

# The Future of the May Plant Sales

## By Liz Naylor

As mentioned in the last newsletter and at the January meeting, if we are to continue with the May plant sales, we need to create the May Sales Committee - a committee of 4-6 members - to produce these events.

Ken Shannik has decided this will be his last year as Plants Manager and Orders Manager. But he will be available as a consultant to our next Plants Manager. I would like to thank Ken for his many years of dedication to organizing and growing our May Sales. On behalf of the Membership of the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society, thank you Ken, for providing us with such a range of plant material to grow in our spectacular gardens.

I anticipate the May Sales Committee will need to meet as a group once a year to assess the past year and prepare for the coming year. These are the roles to be filled by members of this committee.

### Plants Manager

- By late January, plant material has been sourced, tantalizing descriptions have been created and compiled into a list, and the Plant List for the Members' Pre-ordered Sale is ready for distribution and presentation to the ARHS membership.
- Signs with images and descriptions providing plant material information are prepared for presentation to the membership at the February meeting and for use at the Members' Pre-ordered Pick Up and Public Sales.
- When the trucks roll in with the plants, up to two weeks before the Member Pre-Order Pick Up, the Plants Manager is there to check the orders - counting each plant - to ensure the order is complete.
- Any plants that have suffered some damage during transport will be transplanted and given special attention.
- At this point the Plants Manager and the Events Coordinator work with our lovely volunteers 1. the Friday before the Members Pre-Order, 2. the day of the Members Pre-Order Pick Up, and 3. the day of the Public Sale.
- Remember, Ken will be available as a consultant to the Plants Manager.

### Orders Manager

As soon as the membership has received the Plant List they will be eager to order. The Orders Manager will

- Receive orders
- Input the orders and keep a running tally
- Coordinate with the Plants Manager to ensure we have enough plant material and adjust quantities where possible
- Finalize Individual member orders when plants are received

### Publicity

- A notice from *Gardens East* informing us the deadline for submitting announcements for the April 2014 issue is coming up is the cue to begin working on Publicity for the Public Sale.
- There is an extensive list of garden clubs, landscape architects and a couple of publications to be notified by email of this year's Public Sale.
- This takes a few hours over the span of 2-3 weeks to complete.

### Volunteer Coordinator

Our experienced and novice volunteers are always eager to help. Already one of last year's volunteers has sent an email eagerly requesting to help out again this year. There is a list of volunteers who generously offer their time year after year.

The Volunteer Coordinator organizes people to be present on a number of occasions: **1.** When the trucks roll up with the plant material. **2.** The Friday before the Members' Pre-ordered Pick Up. **3.** The Saturday of the Members' Pick Up.

**4.** Transportation of plant material to the Public Sale location. **5.** For the set up, duration and clean up of the Public Sale.

### May Sales Committee Chair and Events Coordinator

**I volunteer** to take responsibility for the May Sales Committee. From beginning to end this person ensures that tasks are being completed and solutions found for challenges that arise. This person is also responsible to find volunteers to fill each of the roles on the May Sales Committee. Hmm, that means I will be speaking to members over the next few months.

And you can contact me at [liz.anne.naylor@gmail.com](mailto:liz.anne.naylor@gmail.com) ☺



## 2014 ARHS Seed Exchange and Sale

By Sharon Bryson.



Some of the plants on offer in the ARHS 2014 Seed Exchange and Sale.  
Photo collage by Sharon Bryson, Seed Exchange chair.

The seed list and order form are posted on the Willow Garden website <http://www.willowgarden.net/> with links to images and information to help in your decision-making. Look for periodic updates on seed lot availability. **Deadline for members-only orders is Feb 28, 2014. Then it's open to all until the sale closes on April 30.** Shipping and handling is now \$3.00. In view of upcoming changes at Canada Post, this may need a further change.

Seeds go out on a “first-come, first-served” basis, dependent on quantity. Order early and you have a very good chance of getting everything on your list. It is VERY helpful to list second choices on the order form. Otherwise we have to make a small “editorial decision”!

The offering of hand pollinated Rhododendron hybrids is quite extensive. The hybridizers have chosen interesting parents in their quest for great foliage, increased hardiness, and wonderful blooms. There is an interesting selection of shade-loving perennials, four different seed lots for Enkianthus, a large selection of Magnolias, and several tree seed selections. Some of the peony seeds will need to have both a warm period followed by a cold period before being set out to garden spaces.

Anyone who needs information on Growing Rhododendrons from Seed is encouraged to check out the CD from the ARHS library. Online information is available at both the Atlantic Rhodo and the Willow Garden websites.

Thanks to the faithful contributors who have made this possible. Success also depends upon members purchasing seed. Many interesting plants can be added to our gardens by simply growing a few seeds. ☺

*Editor's note:* Thanks to Sharon and Bill for whom this is an enormous amount of time and effort!



Hamamelis 'Pallida' on Jan 17 2014. [Photo Stephen Archibald]

# The Winter Beauty of Five Noteworthy Trees

By Raymond R. Fielding

(Photos supplied by the author)

## PAPERBARK MAPLE (*Acer griseum*)



This ornamental tree comes from China and rarely exceeds 20 to 30 feet in height. The inner bark is a rich reddish-brown colour, and the exfoliating bark is orangey (the colour of cinnamon) and abundantly curled. Even young trees present this unusual bark.

This is a delightful addition for any garden. Our tree has been crowded by other trees (that I hesitate to remove!), which has curtailed its growth.

## AMERICAN SYCAMORE (*Platanus occidentalis*)



This species can grow into a large tree and ranges from Maine to Ontario, south to Florida, and west to Texas. Its attractive exfoliating bark breaks off in flakes, leaving a whitish-green to brownish bark that presents an attractive camouflage effect.

The term “sycamore” can cause confusion. In Britain, it refers to a large maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The true European sycamore is called a Plane Tree.

Our sycamore was picked up as a seedling along a West Virginia highway.

## AMUR CHOKEBERRY (*Prunus maackii*)



Also known as Manchurian cherry, this attractive small tree is a native of Manchuria, Siberia, and Korea and has a shiny, rich golden-brown bark that brightens the winter landscape. Our young tree is visible from our dining room, where it brings added pleasure to our meals.

An additional attribute of this tree is its abundant sprays of small white flowers.

The late Alma Chetwynd, an ardent gardener friend of mine, acquainted me with this small beauty.

## JAPANESE STEWARTIA (*Stewartia pseudocamellia*)



This is a medium-sized tree native to Japan and Korea. It is slow growing, so you will have to wait a while to experience its stunning bark. It exfoliates to reveal a greyish-beige and reddish-brown mottled inner bark. If you want a tree that will elicit “wows” from visiting friends, this is for you!

This tree has the added bonus of attractive white camellia-like flowers that are randomly produced over a

lengthy period in the summer.

## YELLOW BIRCH (*Betula alleghaniensis*)



This stately native is one of our most valuable hardwoods. Its range extends from Nova Scotia to Manitoba and south to Georgia.

As this tree matures, its bark becomes a beautiful shiny yellow to silver-grey, peeling in small curls with spectacular results.

The broken twigs of this species release a pleasant wintergreen aroma.

A fine example of this tree stands proudly beside our driveway. I planted it as a teenager many years ago.

## AN INVITATION

These five trees are well established on our property and are happy with our climate. Should you be interested in seeing them, you are most welcome. I can be reached by email at [cleverfield@eastlink.ca](mailto:cleverfield@eastlink.ca).

### Editor's notes

1. Ray Fielding is the author of the excellent *Shrubs of Nova Scotia and Plants of the Woodlands and Adjacent Areas of Lunenburg*. Once upon a time he presented at an ARHS workshop.

2. Alma Chetwynd, who introduced Ray to the amur chokeberry, was a founding member of the Shelburne Garden Club. In 2013 the club began the transformation of the Alma Chetwynd Garden at #7 Sandy Point Rd in Shelburne, to honour Alma Chetwynd's love of gardening and her desire to create a lovely and inviting space. ☺



# French Garden Travel

By Bob Howard

(Photos supplied by the author)



In the 'Japanese village' section of the Albert Kahn Museum garden.

France has a long tradition of gardening, from over-the-top extravagance at Versailles to the down-to-earth beauty of the workingman's *potager*. If as travelers we could get over our reluctance to navigate a foreign language, we would discover a great richness and variety of gardens in France. Besides, most French people speak enough English for us to get by. Train tickets, cash machines, and more signs every year are now in English. There's been 'an explosion of garden visiting in France' since the 1990s, as Louisa Jones details in the 2005 publication, *Vista: The Culture and Politics of Gardens*.

At the January ARHS meeting, we 'toured' gardens in three regions of France: in and around Paris, in the Loire Valley, and in Normandy. In and near Paris, we looked at the Albert Kahn Museum gardens, with its contemplative Japanese garden.

Just outside Paris proper we saw the Bagatelle garden with its roses, English park, and "presenters garden". Then on to the Parc des Sceaux with its "water mirrors" and huge perspective.

This past year, 2013, was the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of André Le Nôtre, most famous of French gardeners, designer of Versailles, who also worked at the Tuilleries in Paris and first perfected the style now known as the *jardin à la française* (the formal French garden) at the château called Vaux-le-Vicomte. Built around 1660, this chateau and extensive garden is a masterwork of the French Renaissance style. A key element of the style is mastery of perspective. The geometric patterns and sculptural forms have a formal beauty while also expressing the ethos of the ruling class, a demonstration of the power of human intellect over nature. At the same time, the tricks and subtleties of perspective are witty and full of fun.



In the Loire Valley, near the town of Tours, we 'visited' a shared community vegetable garden with over 400 plots; also a medieval herb and simples garden at Loches, some Renaissance castles, and a popular neighborhood park (Le jardin Prébendes d'Oë) full of North America trees, including a cluster of *Sequoiadendron giganteum*.

Then we headed north on our imaginary bus to Normandy, to Varengeville-sur-mer, near the town of Dieppe. At the Shamrock Association, we saw some of the French national hydrangea collection. Here Corinne Mallet has gathered plants from around the world, including from three collecting trips to Japan. Varengeville-sur-mer is a delightful village with an inexpensive, cozy seaside hotel, La Terrasse, from which several gardens are within a reasonable walking distance. At Le Vasterival, the Princess Greta Sturdza began in the 1950s to plant an artistic arrangement of hellebores, rhododendrons, primulas, dogwoods, Japanese maples, and more. Be sure to schedule your visit in advance. Finally we walked around Le Bois des Moutiers, an Arts and Crafts house and garden completed in 1898, the only house and garden in France designed by the celebrated duo, Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll. ☘

The large rhododendron is from the the grex called 'Alarm', bred by Waterer and Godfrey before 1867.



# Letter from the West Coast

By Carol Dancer



Hellebore 'Winter Sun' in Carol Dancer's Victoria BC garden

Let me start by saying how much I enjoyed John Weagle's essay on snowdrops. Snowdrops I list among my favorite flowers. They are beautiful, charming, and impervious to snow, rain, and frost. They draw us out into the garden at a time of year when little else is in bloom.

In Victoria, snowdrops (*Galanthus reginae-olgae*) begin to bloom in October and continue through the winter - usually disappearing in early March with the last blooms of *G. nivalis*. The cycle will repeat the following October, and as John says, usually with twice the number of flowers.

There is a wonderful myth about snowdrops. The story starts with Adam and Eve being banished from the Garden of Eden. They were suffering through their first winter and in despair of ever being warm again. An angel appeared and touched the ground in front of Eve. A snowdrop bloomed where the angel touched the ground. The angel told Eve that whenever she saw the snowdrops bloom she would know spring and warmth would soon return to the earth.

Snowdrops are not the only flowers blooming in my garden on Dec. 21 even though we've had minus 5 temperatures for several nights. *Hamamelis 'Jelena'* is now opening its spidery flowers. It is the first of the witch hazels to bloom here on the west coast and always provides flowers for the Christmas table. On the tree, the flowers last for weeks on end. I love the witch hazels and every garden should have one. Most hazels have a lovely light scent. Many new varieties are coming to market but '*Jelena*' with its rich orange flowers and *H. 'Pallida'* with clear lemon-yellow flowers remain my favorites.

*Camellia sasanqua* (Christmas camellia, yuletide camellia) is blooming beautifully this year, the flowers having escaped those frosty nights. Quite often it will just begin to flower only to be caught by a frost. By morning those flowers will be a dirty brown, the petals having been frozen during the night.

Most winter-flowering shrubs have evolved to cope with winter frost and storms to ensure their survival. They will usually bloom over a lengthy period of time, rarely all at once. Also the flowers are mostly modest in size and tilt down to protect the stamens and pollen from the rain. Many have a perfume, sometimes quite powerful, to attract winter insects for pollination. I grew *Sarcococca hookeriana* (Sweet Box) in my Dartmouth garden and was always amazed at the beautiful scent emitted from its tiny flowers.

The Anna's hummingbirds overwinter here in Victoria. Two shrubs they adore are *Mahonia 'Charity'* and *Grevillia victoriae* (Royal Grevillia or Mountain Grevillia). I grow both and the little hummers shelter in the shrubs overnight to be on the spot for instant breakfast; a reminder that we shouldn't forget our feathered-friends when grubs are difficult to find. I wonder if anyone grows the *mahonia* in Nova Scotia? I think it should be tried in a sheltered area in among other shrubs. It is a beautiful plant with dark green glossy leaves and long racemes of golden-yellow flowers, lightly scented.

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It is now mid-January. Since the freeze in early December our weather has been quite mild and dry and the garden is moving toward spring mode. In the city the cherry blossoms are just beginning to open. In my garden the snowdrops have been joined by the hellebores, *cyclamen coum*, *iris reticulata*, and crocus.

I have loved and admired hellebores since Capt. Steele, John Weagle, and I brought some in from England in the 1980s. Little did we know how popular they would become. Today one can buy hellebores in a multitude of colours and shapes. The German horticultural industry has developed a strain that blooms at Christmas time to give as a house present rather than the ubiquitous poinsettia. However, I find once planted in the garden the flowers don't stand up very well to the rain.

This is a sample of what I grow to provide interest in the winter garden here in Victoria. I realize some of these plants would not be hardy in a Nova Scotian garden in winter. However, think of shrubs with colourful bark and berries, the heathers that change to brilliant colours in winter, dwarf conifers of blue or green, or the lovely buds of magnolias silhouetted against a blue sky.

Graham Stuart Thomas, my gardening hero, wrote a wonderful little book *Colour In The Winter Garden*. Again, many of the plants he writes about wouldn't be hardy for the Nova Scotian winter garden but his ideas on where to place and how to choose plants for winter enjoyment are applicable and his writing is wonderful. The book is out of print but available through abebooks.

In closing, *R. mucronulatum* is coming into flower. ☘

## The 'Boulderwood Lodge' Rhododendron

By Christine Curry (Photos supplied by the author)



Christine Curry with the 'Boulderwood Lodge' Rhododendron circa 2002

When I was purchasing a 'Boulderwood' rhododendron at Bayport Plant Farm in the spring of 1991, I first met Captain Dick Steele. We had an exchange that went something like this:

Me (somewhat shy – after all, it was the Captain!): *Excuse me, why is this rhododendron called 'Boulderwood'?*

Dick: *I lived in Boulderwood.*

Me: *Oh! My grandparents lived in Boulderwood.*

Dick: *Who were your grandparents?*

Me: *Captain Angus and Brenda Curry.*

Dick: *Oh! Have you seen your grandmother's rhododendrons?*





I don't remember when I'd last seen the rhododendrons that grew on the two Boulderwood properties purchased in 1915 by my great grandmother, Marion MacDonald Morrow. One property, 'Wyldeewood,' has been subdivided and there isn't public access to the land along the Arm where I remember a towering rhododendron growing up along the spruce trees near the shore. But I've seen the one that grows by the house that the family called 'Boulderwood Lodge' many times. According to Dick, either my grandmother or her mother moved the rhododendrons from the family home on Morris Street and he thought they'd likely come from a nursery in the States.

About ten years ago, a friend and I visited Hall's Road, and then walked across to the Lodge on Boulderwood Road to see the rhododendron - a magnificent thing, sprawling and layered ... a miniature forest. We met the current owners who were happy to let us take a few rooted layers and I brought three home. Carefully potted, I put them in the woods where they'd have moisture and shelter. Apparently that wasn't quite enough - torrential rain washed one down the brook, another out and out died, and the third lingered for three or four years without signs of either living or dying. Trying to jolly it along, I moved it out of its pot into a lovely bed of moss, and when I'd nearly given up hope, it started to grow.

Potted up again, I moved it closer to the house where I kept an eye on it. Two years ago, I planted it across the driveway where I can see it every day. It bloomed in late June this past summer for the first time, put out stunning new growth, and set several buds later in the summer. The trusses are very dense, and the flowers held their colour well, although the photo doesn't do them justice. It hasn't blinked an eye at the record storms that have battered our shore.

John Weagle speculates it's R. 'Maximum Roseum', bred in the US in the 1930s, and in the UK well before then. Articles I've read seem to back this up, and also correspond to what I remember Captain Steele telling me. Note taking would have been helpful!

I'm thrilled to share my property with it and wonder how it will manage over the next 100 years. Of course, I'll have to take a piece of it with me if I ever move, or, to be on the safe side, three.☺

Editor's Note: Christine lives and gardens in Louis Head, NS. She was a 'founding' board member of The Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society in 2003.

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## ARS International Convention - 2014

The American Rhododendron Society Annual International Convention is May 15-18, 2014, Greater Cleveland area, situated along the scenic shores of Lake Erie - WHERE EVERY GARDEN TELLS A STORY.

Welcome to the "City of Trees," experience the special beauty and variety of a Midwestern spring. Visit carefully chosen tours - in our woods, along our shores in private and public gardens. Enjoy speakers with fresh perspectives and interesting garden themes, who will entertain and inform.

All roads and airways (Hopkins International Airport) lead to Quail Hollow Resort Hotel, our convention site. PLAN TO ATTEND. For details: <http://www.greatlakesrhodies.org/>



Steve Hootman's Plant List from his talk, "The Rhododendron Species Foundation Garden: History, Recent Changes, and New Introductions", at the 2013 ARS Fall Conference hosted by ARHS. (For visuals check out <http://rhodygarden.org/cms/>). (Photos provided By Steve Hootman)

Steve Hootman is one of the foremost international plant hunters of the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. He is also the Executive Director and Curator of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington. The RSFBG maintains the largest collection of species rhododendrons in the United States and is committed to disseminating information, as well as plants and seeds, to further understanding of this large, complex, and fascinating genus.



*R. taxifolium*, (vireya) in the Rutherford Conservatory.

*R. arboreum*  
*R. lacteum*  
*R. augustinii*  
*R. cinnabarinum*  
*R. sinogrande*  
*R. anthopogon*  
*R. campylogynum*  
*R. maddenii*  
*R. lindleyi*  
*R. dalhousiae* var. *rhabdotum*  
*R. argyrophyllum*  
*R. citriniflorum* var. *haraeum*  
*R. niveum*  
*R. parmulatum*  
*R. orbiculare*  
*R. strigillosum*  
*R. exasperatum*  
*R. erosum*  
*R. campanulatum* ssp. *aeruginosum*  
*R. mucronulatum*  
*R. yedoense* var. *poukhanense*  
*R. schlippenbachii*  
*R. quinquefolium*  
*R. pentaphyllum*  
*R. molle*  
*R. vaseyi*  
*R. cumberlandense*  
*R. luteum* 'Golden Comet'  
*R. chamaethomsonii* 'Little Vixen'  
*R. 'Ever Red'*  
*R. phaeochrysum*  
*R. trilactorum*

*R. boothii*  
*R. griffithianum*  
*R. hodgsonii* aff.  
*R. macabeum* (alpine form)  
*R. titapuriense*  
*R. forrestii*  
*R. mallotum*  
*R. edgeworthii*  
*R. seingkuense*  
*R. asterochnum*  
*R. huianum*  
*R. ochraceum*  
*Podocarpus wangii*  
*R. guihainianum*  
*R. dachengense*  
*Nothotsuga longibracteata*  
*R. glanduliferum*  
*R. yuefengense*  
*R. platypodum*  
*R. faithiae*  
*R. brevicaudatum*  
*R. mariesii*  
*R. excellens*  
*R. sinofalconeri*  
*Lonicera crassifolia*  
*Enkianthus deflexus*  
*Menziesia 'Plum Drops'*



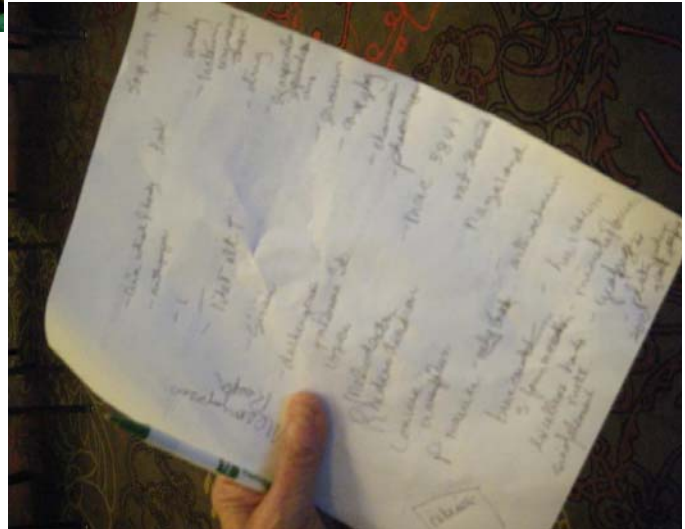
This is our meadow of Himalayan Blue Poppies at the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington.



Agapetes  
pyrolifolia

- Viburnum plicatum var. tomentosum
- Lilium hansonii
- Cardiocrinum giganteum
- Ypsilandra thibetica
- Disporum sp.
- Iris tectorum
- Hedychium sp.
- gesneriads
- Aeschynanthus tengchungensis
- Paeonia mairei
- Arisaema sikokianum
- Lysichiton camtschatcense
- Primula sonchifolia
- Podophyllum pleianthum
- Podophyllum aurantiocaulum

- Rodgersia sp.
- Soldanella villosa
- Trillium chloropetalum
- Matteuccia struthiopteris
- Acer shirasawanum 'Aureum'
- Acer palmatum
- Magnolia sprengeri 'Diva'
- Magnolia sargentiana var. robusta
- Magnolia hypoleuca
- Magnolia globosa
- Manglietia sp.
- Tetracentron sinense
- Styrax sp.
- Rehderodendron macrocarpum



If you have notes from Steve's talk that look like these made by John Weagle, this list will be welcome indeed! (Photo by Stephen Archibald)



Agapetes  
miniata

- Meliiodendron xylocarpum
- Alniphyllum fortunei
- Disanthus cercidifolius
- Cercidiphyllum japonicum
- Meconopsis 'Lingholm'
- R. brookeanum
- R. lowii
- R. taxifolium
- R. rubineiflorum
- R. himantodes
- R. christii
- R. stenophyllum
- R. dendricola
- R. nuttallii
- Agapetes oblonga
- Agapetes miniata
- Agapetes smithiana var. major
- Agapetes pyrolifolia
- Gaultheria pseudonotabilis
- Dendrobium thyrsoiflorum
- Cymbidium elegans
- Lapageria rosea

❧❧❧

# The Journey to Horticulture

By Nathan Smith

Originally from Australia, I moved around the country fairly often with my family as my father was in the Royal Australian Air Force. We lived in many rented houses where gardens were quite often neglected; which Dad would soon turn around and transform into oases of green. I spent a lot of time in lush, very green, tropical areas where there were plenty of lawns to mow and even today, the smell of fresh cut grass instantly transports me back to those very warm summer days.

My parents had instilled in me a love of travel and I found it hard to stay in one place for long. As I continued to traipse around the world, I was fortunate enough to experience many different climates and habitats such as treeless plains, old growth forests, deserts, high mountain valleys, and coastal wetlands to name a few. This slowly impressed upon me the amazing scope and variety of the natural world.

When the itch in my feet stopped long enough, I decided to grow some of my own fresh food. At the time I was in a third-floor apartment so I don't know why I decided to do this, but thinking back I did like to cook (strange for a bachelor I know!). With a couple of long containers, some potting mix, and a selection of seeds I was on my way. I had never grown anything from seed before and was thrilled when things began to sprout. I don't remember everything that I planted but I do remember the spring onions and baby carrots. They tasted fantastic!

Before long I was on the move again but this time to the very different environment of the sea and a tall ship on the coast of Tasmania. Little did I know that onboard I would meet my future wife, an enchanting Canadian who was backpacking around Australia. When Jocelyne left to go back to Canada, it wasn't long before I realized that I needed to be there too. Farewell eucalyptus, hello maple!

My first year in Canada was an experience of seasons: arriving in summer, city streets lined with mature trees which were soon changing into vibrant shades of yellow, orange, and red, a spectacular sight. Then winter, come full force with snow laden evergreens, and stark, defoliated trees standing strong but poignant, waiting patiently for spring. Blink and you'll miss it, that first faint sheen of yellow-green as buds begin to open and the dormant trees breaking free from the frosty grips of winter, quickly flooding back to lush full canopies of greens, reds, and purples. Color volcanoes burst from the ground in tulips, daffodils, and crocus, soon followed by masses of annuals and perennials. Season to season the landscape undergoes such dramatic change that I was drawn to it, amazed by it, kindling a desire to be out working in it.

Upon moving to Nova Scotia I was fortunate to land a position at Blomidon Nurseries for a season. Physically demanding and very wet at times, I loved it and the myriad of plants I was working with. But I wanted to know more and was soon enrolled at NSCC Kingstec in the horticulture program that came highly recommended. The excellent facilities allow for a fantastic hands-on learning environment with greenhouses, propagation houses, cold frames, and a whole campus of gardens to practice on. I have even propagated from cuttings an ancient species of pine in a media mix I created, not to mention a few choice rhododendrons. To say I was thrilled when roots began to form doesn't even come close. The more I learn about plants, the more I want to know and the outstanding instructors at the college are only too happy to oblige. I am now in my final semester with some awesome live projects on the go that I look forward to showcasing at the end of the semester.

For me, being in horticulture is not about selling plants but about bringing the wonderful variety of the natural world closer and appreciating its ability to heal and beautify the landscape. It has taken some time to get here but I know that my journey in horticulture will never truly end.

**Editor's Note:** Nathan Smith is the 2013 ARHS Passionate Plants Person at NSCC Kingstec, and coincidentally, the son-in-law of ARHS members, Sandra and Sid Dumaresq.

He writes, "*I did win the ARHS Passionate Plants Person award last year and I was very proud but humbled also. All of my classmates are passionate about the amazing varieties of plants, even those taking the landscaping stream. We are excited when we come across something new and we like to share that with each other as soon as we can. It is a great group environment to be around and any in my class could have been deserving of the award. I was thrilled to get it and in a way confirms my commitment to horticulture.*" ❧



## Positions of Responsibility

### Officers and Directors of the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticulture Society for 2013-14

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Plant Sale, Public:	Elizabeth Naylor	902-429-0557	<a href="mailto:liz.naylor@ns.sympatico.ca">liz.naylor@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Technical Support at Meetings:	Rachel Martin	902-425-3779	<a href="mailto:rachelmartin@ns.sympatico.ca">rachelmartin@ns.sympatico.ca</a> ,
Gardens Care Outreach:	Chris Hopgood	902-479-0811	<a href="mailto:rhodohop@hotmail.com">rhodohop@hotmail.com</a>
District 12 (RSCAR) rep, American Rhododendron Society (ARS):	Nick Yarmoshuk, Niagara Chapter	905-684-4703	<a href="mailto:rhodorus@gmail.com">rhodorus@gmail.com</a>

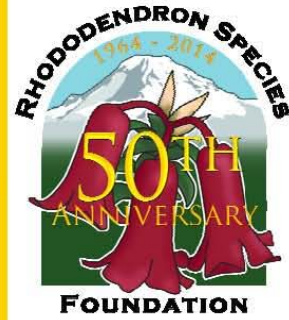
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